March 13, 2019 Faculty Meeting Minutes – FINAL

Faculty Chair Steve Blakeslee opened the meeting at 3:14 p.m. with one announcement:

- The agenda item for the day is bringing the FYE proposal before the faculty for a vote. Steve explained the process, and confirmed a quorum of at least 43 faculty was reached.

The February 27, 2019 Faculty Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

First-Year Experience (FYE) Proposal – First-Year Experience Work Group member Cynthia Kennedy offered her experience as a member on the work group, and her belief that it represents many different voices and in-depth discussions. Cynthia highlighted items from the April 2018 Assessment Report as an invitation to ask the faculty to shift their thinking and consider staff and student views on supporting first year students.

Co-chairs Jadon Berry and Trevor Speller presented a revised proposal dated March 11, 2019, and reviewed the changes based on faculty feedback from the initial faculty meeting discussion on February 27, 2019. A question and answer session ensued, followed by the presentation of the following motion:

In order to improve learning, satisfaction, retention and persistence to graduation for all of Evergreen’s first-time, first-year students, we recommend that The Evergreen State College develop a First-Year Experience (FYE) for first-time, first-year (FTFY) students as follows in the revised proposal.

As the subject of a major vote, the motion required a second discussion and, for passage, affirmative votes from at least 66 percent of the eligible voters present. With 52 voting members present, the motion passed with a vote of 50 in favor, 2 against, and 0 abstaining. The effect of this vote is to clear the way for a limited phase-in of the new FYE curriculum beginning in Fall 2019, which will inform a full implementation beginning in Fall 2020.

Provost Update/Q&A – Jen Drake provided an update on the 2019 NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) annual conference and recognized Wendy Endress as the recipient of a Pillar of the Profession Award. Jen indicated that she recently received Curricular Area Team (CAT) proposals and that a decision would soon be made and announced. Early next quarter, the newly formed CATs will nominate CAT leaders. Other opportunities for faculty to provide support to renewal initiatives will be announced early in spring quarter. She then reminded faculty of an e-mail John Carmichael sent regarding the college’s budget process and indicated that David McAvity will soon follow with information on the Student & Academic Life budget process. Jen closed with two last announcements; the Space and Land Use Group (SLUG) will be looking at strategies to better utilize space on campus, and Art of Giving raised $295,000 for student scholarships.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.